

Although in the United States conscription is limited to those 18 and over, the United States military has a long standing practice of recruiting youths under the age of 18 and allowing them to be designated to fill combat positions. According to the U.S. Defense Department, children under the age of 18 make up less than one-half of one percent of active U.S. troops, about 7,000 individuals. I urge the Defense Department to examine its policy of recruiting children under the age of 18. Further, I urge the Defense Department to reassign those recruits under 18 to non-combat positions and adopt a clear policy barring those under 18 from participating in armed conflict. These steps would bring the United States closer to the emerging international consensus regarding the minimum age for military service.

Further, to move forward, the United States government must drop its objection to an international agreement establishing 18 as the minimum age for recruitment or participation in armed conflict. Since the United States is not even a party to the parent treaty, our opposition is inappropriate. The United States should not object to other countries moving forward in protecting their children even if we choose not to follow suit.

Mr. President, I speak today for these children who have grown up surrounded by violence and can only see this as a permanent way of life; for the children who are the victims of unfathomable terror and violence; and, for the children who are forced to perpetrate equal atrocities upon others.

I speak for the children who have no other voice to speak for them, and no voice to speak for themselves. I submit this resolution so that the United States Congress can speak for these children.

I ask the United States Senate, as we look to the new millennium, to begin the process whereby we eliminate the use of children as soldiers. I ask the Senate to give voice to these children and to future generations of children through passage of this concurrent resolution.

The resolution simply provides that (1) the Congress joins the international community in condemning the use of children as soldiers; and (2) it is the sense of the Congress that (A) the United States should not oppose current efforts to negotiate an optional international agreement to raise the international minimum age for military service to the age of 18; (B) The Secretary of State should address positively and expediently this issue in the next session of the United Nations working group relating to child soldiers before this process is abandoned by the international community; and (C) the President and the Congress should work together to enact a law that establishes a fund for the rehabili-

tation and reintegration into society of child soldiers.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 73—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING FREEDOM DAY

Mr. LIEBERMAN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 73

Whereas on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down by those whom it had imprisoned;

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall has become the preeminent symbol of the end of the Cold War;

Whereas the Cold War, at its essence, was a struggle for human freedom;

Whereas the end of the Cold War was brought about in large measure by the dedication, sacrifice, and discipline of Americans and many other peoples around the world united in their opposition to Soviet Communism;

Whereas freedom's victory on the Cold War against Soviet Communism is the crowning achievement of the free world's long 20th century struggle against totalitarianism; and

Whereas it is highly appropriate to remind Americans, particularly those in their formal educational years, that America paid the price and bore the burden to ensure the survival of liberty on this planet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) a Freedom Day should be celebrated each year in the United States; and

(2) the United States should join with other nations, specifically including those which liberated themselves to help end the Cold War, to establish a global holiday called Freedom Day.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, we have just marked the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, one of the most important milestones of our era. In honor of this event, I am submitting a resolution urging that a "Freedom Day" be celebrated each year in the United States. It also calls on the United States to work with other nations to establish a global holiday called "Freedom Day." The House already passed an identical resolution, introduced by my friend House Policy Chairman CHRISTOPHER COX, by a vote of 417-0, and it is my hope that we can pass it in the Senate before adjournment.

A decade later, it is sometimes easy to forget the profound significance of November 9, 1989, the day that Berlin Wall came down. It was the symbolic end of four decades of a Cold War that had dominated our foreign and defense policies and threatened international stability. The Cold War's end was a resounding success for the United States and the international community, that set off a worldwide movement toward greater democratization and the embrace of free markets.

In the United States, credit for this success can be generously distributed to generations of American leaders, both Democrats and Republicans, who never wavered in their courageous determination to contain the Soviet Union and resist totalitarianism. The end of the Cold War was truly a bipartisan effort and a national achievement, and is a model of cooperation that we should not forget as we seek to address the international concerns we face now and in the future.

The fall of the wall was a transcendent moment in the struggle against totalitarianism and for democracy, a smashing victory for the human spirit and the cause of human rights. It is only fitting that we choose the anniversary of this epochal triumph to honor and celebrate freedom's march of progress across the planet.

This effort to establish a "Freedom Day," in recognition of the end of the Cold War, was inspired by my good friend Ben Wattenberg, Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a long time champion of freedom and democracy. His recent column entitled "moving Forward With Freedom Day" is particularly noteworthy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of Mr. Wattenberg's column be inserted in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MOVING FORWARD WITH FREEDOM DAY

Ten years ago, on Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall was battered down by the people it had imprisoned. The event is regarded as the moment the Cold War ended. For Americans without sentiment memories of World War II, the end of the Cold War has been the most momentous historical event of their lifetimes, and so it will likely remain.

Long yearned for, the end of the Cold War has more than lived up to expectations: Democracy is on the march globally, defense budgets are proportionately down, market economies are beginning to flourish most everywhere, everyday people are benefiting each and every day.

The end of the Cold War actually was a process, not an event. By early 1989, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had pulled his troops from Afghanistan, whipped Poles elected a noncommunist government; the Soviets did nothing. Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and later Bulgaria installed non-communist governments. It was called "the velvet revolution," with only Romania the exception; Nicolae Ceausescu and his empress were executed.

For almost two years, the U.S.S.R. remained a one-party communist state, gradually eroding. Hard-liners attempted to resist the slow motion dismemberment. On Aug. 19, 1991, Boris Yeltsin stood on a tank to resist a hard-line coup. The hammer-and-sickle came down; the Russian tricolor went up. Other Soviet republics declared independence, including the big guy on the block, Ukraine.

U.S. diplomats did not "gloat" about it. The sovereign state of Russia would be unstable enough without the United States rubbing it in.

On Dec. 4, 1991, I proposed in a column that a new national holiday be established to commemorate the end of the Cold War. I asked readers to participate in a contest to: 1. Name it; 2. pick a date; and 3. propose a method of celebration.

Several hundred submissions came in. Some of the most imaginative entries for a name were: "Defrost Day," "Thaw Day," "Ronald Reagan Day," "Gorbachev Day," "Borscht Day," "Peace Through Strength Day," "E Day" (which would stand for "Evil Empire Ends Day"), "E2D2" ("Evil Empire Death Day"), "Jericho Day," "Pax Americana Day" and "Kerensky Future Freedom Day" (recalling that Mr. Yeltsin was not the first pro-democratic leader of Russia).

Scores of respondents offered "Liberty Day," "Democracy Day," and, mostly, "Freedom Day." In June of 1992, I publicly proclaimed "Freedom Day" the winner.

One suggestion for the date of the new holiday was June 5, for Adam Smith's birthday. But the most votes went for Nov. 9, the day the wall fell. So today I proclaim that date Freedom Day.

There were ideas about how to celebrate and commemorate Freedom Day: Build a sibling sculpture to the Statue of Liberty; eat potatoes, the universal food; build a tunnel to Russia across the Bering Strait; thank God for peace; welcome immigrants; meditate; issue a U.N. stamp; build ice sculptures; send money to feed Russians; and do something you can't do in an unfree country—make a public speech, see a dirty movie, celebrate a religion, travel across a border.

I propose that discussion on the matter of how to celebrate be put on hold until we get the holiday established.

How? Because all the major presidential candidates participated in the Cold War, they should endorse the holiday. Legislators ought to push for it. Anyone who worked in a defense industry, or paid federal taxes from 1945 to 1989, ought to support it. President Clinton ought to go to the Reagan Library to endorse it.

I met with Mark Burman of the Reagan Presidential Foundation. He says they are on board for a campaign. The other great presidential libraries—Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter—should join in.

So should anyone concerned with the teaching of American history. The holiday will remind American children that their recent ancestors preserved freedom. The Cold War generation may not be "the greatest" but they did their job—victory without a major hot war.

Americans can only create an American holiday. But we ought to invite all other countries to join in, Russia first. The citizens of Russia won the Cold War as surely as we did. If I were a Chinese dissident I'd promote the idea; it might give their leaders a clue.

If you like the idea, or have ideas, you may e-mail me at Watmail@aol.com. I'll pass the correspondence along to the appropriate persons, as soon as I figure out who they are.

SENATE RESOLUTION 231—REFERRING S. 1456 ENTITLED "A BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF ROCCO A. TRECASTA OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA" TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A REPORT THEREON

Mr. GRAHAM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 231

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REFERRAL.

S. 1456 entitled "A bill for the relief of Rocco A. Trecoasta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida" now pending in the Senate, together with all the accompanying papers, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SEC. 2. PROCEEDING AND REPORT.

The chief judge shall—

(1) proceed according to the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code; and

(2) report back to the Senate, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) such findings of fact and conclusions that are sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the claim for compensation referred to in such bill as a legal or equitable claim against the United States or a gratuity; and

(B) the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to Rocco A. Trecoasta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

SENATE RESOLUTION 232—MAKING CHANGES TO SENATE COMMITTEES FOR THE 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 232

Resolved, That notwithstanding the provisions of S. Res. 400 of the 95th Congress, or the provisions of rule XXV, the following changes shall be effective on those Senate committees listed below for the 106th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Intelligence: effective the 2nd session of the 106th Congress, remove Mr. DeWine, and Mr. Kerrey.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

PRIVACY PROTECTION STUDY COMMISSION ACT OF 1999

KOHL (AND TORRICELLI) AMENDMENT NO. 2777

(Ordered referred to the Committee on the Judiciary)

Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill (S. 1901) to establish the Privacy Protection Study Commission to evaluate the efficacy of the Freedom of Information Act and the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, to determine whether new laws are necessary, and to provide advice and recommendations; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Privacy Protection Study Commission Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the right of privacy is a longstanding personal right embedded in United States history and jurisprudence;

(2) the openness of Government records, procedures, and actions has become increasingly important in recent years, and should remain so in a free and democratic society;

(3) the use of electronic data collection, storage, communications, transfer, and usage has increased exponentially, thus heightening the potential impact upon individual privacy;

(4) national surveys indicate that the growth and expansion of technology has resulted in concern regarding electronic data privacy for more than 80 percent of United States citizens;

(5) currently, there is no uniform Government policy addressing either Government or private sector uses of personal data;

(6) the right of individual privacy must be weighed against legitimate uses of personal information that benefit the public good; and

(7) the private sector has made notable efforts to self-regulate privacy protection, especially in the online environment, but there remains room for improvement.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish a study commission to—

(1) examine the implications of new and existing technologies on individual privacy;

(2) ensure appropriate privacy protection of both Government and private sector uses of personal information, recognizing that a balance exists between individual rights and the public good including the legitimate needs of law enforcement;

(3) identify Government efforts to establish privacy policy, including recommendations for improved coordination among Government agencies, and foreign governments, and if necessary, legislative proposals;

(4) evaluate new technology (i.e. biometrics) to enhance electronic data privacy; and

(5) study the extent, need, and feasibility of individual control over personal information.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the Privacy Protection Study Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 9 members of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President of the United States;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission shall be chosen based on their knowledge and expertise in law, civil rights and liberties, privacy matters, government, business, telecommunications, media, or information technology.

(3) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Commission shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members. The Chairman, or a member appointed by the Chairman, shall be the official spokesperson of the Commission in its relations with Congress, Government agencies, other persons, and the public.

(4) TERM OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Members shall initially be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) TERM.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers and shall